

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 INT-08

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 SCEM-02 RSR-01

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R 21009 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8071

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 2487

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EMIN GV LI US

SUBJECT: EDGAR DETWILER

REF: STATE 088194

CONAKRY 0712

1. DETWILER WAS CONNECTED WITH AND PROMOTER OF EARLY STAGES OF WHAT BECAME LAMCO. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING DETWILER'S ECCENTRIC AND EXTRAVAGANT PERSONALITY, THE FINAL PRINCIPAL PRIVATE EQUITY OWNERS OF LAMCO, BETHLEHEM AND SWEDISH IRON/ STEEL INTERESTS, BOUGHT OUT HIS PROMOTER'S EQUITY SHARE OF LAMCO A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO.

2. SINCE THAT TIME DETWILER HAS INVESTED A CLAIMED 12 MILLION DOLLARS IN EXPLORING AND PROVING OUT THE APPROXIMATELY TWO BILLION TONS OF RESERVES IN THE WOLOGISI RANGE IN NORTHEASTERN LIBERIA. OVER THE YEARS A NUMBER OF COMPANIES HAVE EXHIBITED INTEREST IN WOLOGISI, INCLUDING U. S. STEEL AND ARMCO AND MOST RECENTLY A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSORTIUM OF JAPANESE COMPANIES HEADED BY KAWASAKI STEEL.

3. LATTER GROUP HELD OPTION WHICH EXPIRED MAY 1, 1972. IF OPTION HAD BEEN EXERCISED JAPANESE GROUP WOULD HAVE

UNDERTAKEN MAJOR PURCHASES OF WOLOGISI' S PRODUCTION AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE APPROXIMATELY 500 TO 600 MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT REQUIRED.

4. ONE OF DETWILER' S DREAMS WAS TO EXTEND PROJECTED RAILWAY TO EVACUATE WOLOGISI ORE INTO GUINEA TO TAP INITIALLY THE RESERVES AT SIMANDOU AND, WITH ANOTHER EXTENSION, THOSE ON THE GUINEAN SIDE OF MIMBA.

5. RE PARA 2, REF A, THE LIBERIAN INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN CORPORATION (LIAC, A HOLDING COMPANY) OF NEW YORK OWNS 80 PER CENT OF THE STOCK OF LISCO.

6. DURING MAY 11 CALL BY AF/ W DIRECTOR AGGREY ON FINMIN STEVE TOLBERT, LATTER SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD MEETING HERE SHORTLY WITH GOG FINMIN ISMAIL TOURE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING GUINEAN SIDE MIMBA.
MANFULL

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NMAFVVZCZ

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